CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for testing a network service, the method comprising:

intercepting a message sent by a network service under test and directed to another network service;

determining whether the message should be redirected to a mock network service that emulates operation of the other network service; and

redirecting the message to the mock network service if it is determined that the message should be so redirected.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein intercepting a message comprises intercepting a request that is related to a request sent to the network service under test from a mock client.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein intercepting a message comprises intercepting the message using a network proxy.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein intercepting a message comprises intercepting the message using a data handler.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the message should be redirected to a mock network service comprises identifying a network address to which the message is directed.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein determining whether the message should be redirected to a mock network service further comprises searching for the network address in a redirection database.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein redirecting the message to the mock network service comprises redirecting the message to a network address associated with the network address searched for in the redirection database.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a response from a mock network service and transmitting the response to the network service under test.

9. A system for testing a network service, the system comprising:

means for intercepting a message transmitted by a local network service under test and intended for receipt by an external network service;

means for determining whether the message should be redirected to a mock network service that emulates operation of the external network service; and

means for redirecting the message to the mock network service.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the means for intercepting a message comprise a network proxy.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the means for intercepting a message comprise a data handler.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the means for determining whether the message should be redirected to a mock network service comprise a redirection database.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the redirection database comprises a table that forms part of a redirection service.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the table associates network addresses of external network services to network addresses of mock network services.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the table associates universal resource locators (URLs) of external network services to universal resource locators (URLs) of mock network services.

16. The system of claim 9, further comprising means for receiving a response from a mock network service and means for transmitting the response to the network service under test.

17. A system stored on a computer-readable medium, the system comprising:

logic configured to intercept messages transmitted by a network service under test and intended for external network services;

logic configured to determine whether the messages should be redirected to mock network services that emulate operation of the external network services; and

logic configured to redirect the messages to the mock network services.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the logic configured to intercept comprises a network proxy.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the logic configured to intercept comprises a data handler.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the logic configured to determine comprises a redirection database that associates network addresses of external network services to network addresses of mock network services.

21. A redirector for use in testing a network service, the redirector being configured to:

receive a message transmitted by a network service under test and intended for an external network service;

determine whether the message should be redirected to a mock network service that emulates operation of the external network service; and

redirect the message to the mock network service if the message is determined to be so redirected.

22. The redirector of claim 21, wherein the redirector comprises a network proxy.

23. The redirector of claim 21, wherein the redirector comprises a data handler.

24. The redirector of claim 21, wherein the redirector comprises a redirection database that associates network addresses of external network services to network addresses of mock network services.

25. A network proxy stored on a computer-readable medium, the network proxy comprising:

logic configured to intercept a message transmitted by a network service under test and intended for an external network service;

logic configured to determine whether the message should be redirected to a mock network service that emulates operation of the external network service; and

logic configured to redirect the message to the mock network service.

26. The network proxy of claim 25, wherein the logic configured to intercept a message comprises logic configured to intercept extensible markup language (XML) messages wrapped in simple object access protocol (SOAP) envelopes.

27. The network proxy of claim 25, wherein the logic configured to determine comprises a redirection database that associates network addresses of external network services to network addresses of mock network services.

28. A data handler stored on a computer-readable medium and configured for integration with a network service, the data handler comprising:

logic configured to intercept messages transmitted by the network service that are intended for external network services;

logic configured to determine whether the messages should be redirected to one or more mock network services that emulate operation of the external network services; and

logic configured to redirect the messages to the one or more mock network services.

29. The data handler of claim 28, wherein the data handler comprises a simple object access protocol (SOAP) message handler, and the logic configured to intercept messages comprises logic configured to intercept extensible markup language (XML) messages wrapped in simple object access protocol (SOAP) envelopes.

30. The data handler of claim 28, wherein the logic configured to determine comprises a redirection database that associates network addresses of external network services to network addresses of mock network services.